FOOD SECRETARIAT

Reviews the Administration Report of the Civil Supplies Department for the year 1945-46.

READ—

Letter No. T4. 6464—46-7, dated 27th November 1946, from the Controller of Civil Supplies in Mysore forwarding a report on the working of the Civil Supplies Department for the year 1945-46.

ORDER No. C. 4380—Co. 29-46-2, DATED BANGALORE, THE 21ST JANUARY 1947.

Recorded.

The Civil Supplies Department was constituted in the year 1944 in connection with the administration and enforcement of control orders regarding various consumer goods other than food, kerosine oil and sugar, promulgated by the Government under the Defence of India Rules as applied to Mysore. Mr. E. V. Ganapati Iyer, B.Sc., continued to be in-charge of the Civil Supplies Department as Controller of Civil Supplies during the period under review. In view of the increased work under the Textile Control Orders in several directions, the appointment of an Additional Controller of Civil Supplies with the rank and status of a Deputy Commissioner, to be mainly in charge of Textile, was sanctioned in Government Order No. 797-8—C. B. 76-45-1, dated 1st September 1945, during the year and Mr. A. S. Khaleel, B.A., B.L., Deputy Commissioner, was appointed as Additional Controller of Civil Supplies from 10th October 1945.

Textiles.—Under the All-India Cloth Distribution Scheme (which envisages the allotment of pre-determined quotas of cloth to various deficit zones in India on the basis of a *per capita* allotment of 12 yards from the surplus production centres like Bombay, Ahmedabad and Sholapur), the quantity of cloth allotted to the Mysore State which is included in the South Deficit Zone from the surplus production centres from month to month is being obtained through the selected importers against purchase authorities issued by the Textile Commissioner to the Government of India and arrangements were made by the department to distribute the available supplies of both local and outside mill made goods evenly throughout the State with the help of the Cloth Distribution Committee. The Textile Commissioner to the Government of India, who visited Mysore during February 1946, was impressed by the satisfactory arrangements made by the department for the equitable distribution of cloth in the State.

In view of the limited supplies of mill made cloth in the State, necessary action was taken by the department to conserve the local production of powerloom goods for being distributed along with the mill goods and to fix the prices of these goods so as to keep them more or less on a par with the mill goods.

With a view to prevent excessive purchases of cloth by individuals on the one hand and indiscriminate sales by the retailers on the other, cloth coupons have been issued to the Food Ration Card-holders of Bangalore and Mysore Cities. Approved shops and Fair Price Depots were started in several parts of the State with a view to make available to the consumers the required varieties of cloth at controlled rates.

Under the All-India Yarn Distribution Scheme, 1,621 bales of yarn per month have been allotted to the State and the same were distributed through the nominees *cum* wholesaler selected by the department to the retailers. A special supply of 1,500 bales of yarn was made to the State for affording relief against famine to weavers in the State.

Special attention has been paid by the department to check hoarding and blackmarketing of articles by the dealers and 307 cases were booked under the Textile Control Orders by the inspecting staff of the department. In thirty of these cases, prosecutions have been launched against the offenders while in 245 cases departmental action has been taken by suspending or cancelling the licenses or administering warnings to the dealers concerned and the remaining 32 cases are under several stages of investigation.

Paper.—The undermentioned Control Orders in respect of paper continued to be in force during the year under report. The prices of several varieties of papers were reduced as a result of the promulgation of the new Paper Price Control Order, 1946. Thirty-three newspapers continued to be on Canadian News Print and thirty-three as Mysore Emergency News Print. As a result of a cut in the Canadian News Print ration to certain journals by the Government of India, the Mysore Paper Mills have been requested to increase the manufacture of the Emergency Newsprint. The supply position of paper for the year under report was not quite satisfactory.

1. Paper Control (Economy) Order.
2. Paper Control (Distribution) Order.
3. Paper Price Control Order.
4. Paper (Price of Imported Paper) Control Order.
5. Paper (Price of Board) Control Order.
6. News Print Control Order.
7. News Paper Control Order.

Consumer Goods.—With the cessation of hostilities, the supply position of articles covered by the Consumer Goods (Control of Distribution) Order, 1945, improved to a considerable extent, as a result of which many of the articles have been removed from the schedule of the said order. The only articles that were under the schedule during the period are :—

(i) Lead copying and coloured pencils.
(ii) Silk yarn and thread.
(iii) Artificial silk yarn and thread.
(iv) Pure and artificial silk.
(v) Hand knitting wool.
(vi) Woollen fabrics.
(vii) Umbrellas and parts of umbrellas.
(viii) Kerosene hurricane lamps.
(ix) Cycle and cycle spare parts.
(x) Woollen and worsted weaving and machine, knitting yarn.

Cement.—The supply position of cement also improved to a considerable extent due to the cessation of hostilities. The price of cement was also reduced during the year.

Brass and Copper.—The brass and copper sheets are allotted to the State by the Government of India for the purpose of manufacturing hand-made utensils and the same are distributed to the manufacturers all over the State. With the improved supply of brass and copper sheets, the prices of utensils have come down.

Silk.—The Mysore Silk (Control of Distribution) Order, 1945, was promulgated in the State on 11th September 1945, in supersession of Silk Control Order. The main provisions of the new Control Order consisted in (1) licensing the dealers in silk and (2) prohibition of exports of silk from the State without permits from the Controller of Civil Supplies. The ceiling prices of the several grades of charka and filature silk were fixed under the Mysore Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Act, 1944, parallel to Government of India Notifications issued in this behalf. A Silk Advisory Committee consisting mostly of non-official members representing several silk interests was constituted to advise the Controller of Civil Supplies in matters of policy relating to the administration of the Control Orders.

Drugs.—The Drug Control Order, which came into force from June 1944, was continued during the year. There were in all 351 Drug licenses representing 36 wholesalers, 273 retailers, four manufacturers, four manufacturers restricted Licenses, four retailers restricts licenses and 30 purchase permits.

Forty-four cases of infringements under the order were noticed by the department during the year, of which 20 were disposed of with a warning, 12 by suspension of licenses, two by cancellation of licenses, two by prosecutions, the balance of eight pending investigation.

Though the supply position of certain classes of drugs was better than the previous year, yet certain drugs of an essential nature, *viz.*, quinine and anti-anæmic drugs were in short supply. Acute shortage was felt during the year in respect of certain invalid and infant food products. Arrangements were however made by the department for an equitable distribution by a cautious rationing of these articles, by way of permits.

General.—The working of the department was on the whole satisfactory.

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